

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 01792 221542Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /025 W
-----085072 230357Z /64

R 212255Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7681
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1792

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, EC
SUBJECT: AMBASSADORIAL MUSICAL CHAIRS

1. THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM SOURCES IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THAT MIGUEL VASCO, CURRENTLY ECAUDOR'S AMBASSADOR TO URUGUAY, WILL REPLACE LUIS VALENCIA RODRIGUEZ AS AMBASSADOR TO PERU. VALENCIA HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO VENEZUELA, REPLACING AS AMBASSADOR ROQUE CANADAS PORTILLO, WHO IS EXPECTED TO ASSUME A POSITION IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. VASCO IS A 50 YEAR OLD CAREER DIPLOMAT, WHOSE PREVIOUS POSTS INCLUDE DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND MINISTER COUNSELOR IN CHILE. EMBASSY WILL POUCH FURTHER INFORMATION ON VASCO WHEN AVAILABLE.

3. VALENCIA, 51 YEARS OLD, HAS BEEN A CAREER DIPLOMAT SINCE 1944 AND HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING ONE OF ECUADOR'S MOST CAPABLE AMBASSADORS. HE SERVED AS FOREIGN MINISTER (1965-66), AMBASSADOR TO BOLOVIA (CIRCA 1969-1971), AND AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL (1971-1974), BEFORE ASSUMING HIS CURRENT POSITION IN LIMA. AS CHIEF OF ECUADOR'S DELEGATIONS TO THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IN CARACAS (1974) AND NEW YORK (1976), VALENCIA PURSUED
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A HARD LINE IN DEFENSE OF ECUADOR'S CLAIMED 200-MILE TERRIROTIAL SEA.

4. COMMENT: THIS SHAKE-UP IN AMBASSADORIAL POSTINGS IS RUMORED TO BE THE RESULT OF DISSATISFACTION AT A HIGH LEVEL WITHIN THE GOE WITH CANADAS' PERFORMANCE IN CARACAS. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT HE IN SOME WAY

INSULATED OR ANGERED OFFICIAL ECUADOREAN VISITORS TO VENEZUELA, PERHAPS MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT JARRIN OR MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES SEMBLANTES. THE RUMOR IS GIVEN CREDENCE BY THE FACT THAT CANADAS' MID-TOUR RECALL IS A HIGHLY UNUSUAL MANEUVER FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. POST WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INSIGHTS FROM CARACAS INTO THIS MATTER. PERSONS FAMILIAR WITH VASCO'S BACKGROUND AND ABILITIES HAVE EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT HE WILL BE CAPABLE OF HANDLING ECUADOR'S DIFFICULT MISSION TO PERU. VASCO, KNOWN AS SOMETHING OF A LIGHTWEIGHT, IS NOT OF THE SAME CALIBER AS VALENCIA. CORR

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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TAGS: PDIP, EC, UY, PE, VE, (VASCO, MIGUEL), (VALENCIA RODRIGUEZ, LUIS), (CANADAS PORTILLO, ROQUE)
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